	DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 10th Sept 2026 at 7.00pm. At Humshaugh Village Hall	

PRESENT	Cllr Herbie Newell - Chair, Cllr Nicolle Croft, Cllr Kev Dodd, Cllr Kim Hilton, Cllr Francis Nohl, Cllr Clare Robson Clerk: Alix Pearson 2 Parishioners of Humshaugh
NUMBER	**DESCRIPTION**
	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
210	**1. Apologies for Absence; Disclosure of Interests** No Councillors were absent. No councillor declared an additional interest in any item on the agenda.
211	**2. Approval of Minutes** The minutes were approved as a true record of the previous meeting and signed by the Chair.
212	**3. Clerk's Reports** **Financial Report** The clerk presented the expenditure for Q2 to date, which was approved and signed off by the Chair. The Clerk reported that the NJC pay award for 26/27 had been settled at 3.3%. A paper had been provided for information to all Councillors. Adherence to this award will be conveyed to the payroll company. There had been no responses to the Casual Vacancy Notice placed on noticeboards in the parish. We may now proceed to the next stage of the process which is to seek personal nominations.
213	**4. Planning** **26/01513/FUL** Replacement Garage The Sheiling Waynriggs Close Humshaugh closed 17th June **26/02374/FUL** Chollerford Mill Construction of Detached Garage closes 28th July GRANTED **26/02655/FUL** Salix House Greenhouse. Closed 28th August
214	**5. Business** **a) Neighbourhood Plan Rural Exception Site.** The Arc4 Housing Needs survey has almost concluded with the closing date for receipt of questionnaires being 14th September. The data will then be analysed and a report completed. The Chair and the Clerk have a meeting with Arc4 on 7th October to discuss the findings. Progress updates will be reported in Parish News.

214 cont	**b) Update on Parish Council Projects** **Improvements to area around old phone box.** Cllr Newell completed a pre-planning application as agreed and the outcome is that a full planning application is required. A parishioner who is part of the HNA working group very kindly agreed to draw up plans and prepare documents for the application. All Councillors extended their very grateful thanks for this offer. NPG has confirmed that there is power to the red phone box and BT Payphones have been asked to remove it. This may take many weeks. Is is, therefore, unlikely that works will commence on this project until the spring. Prior to this, the Parish Council will share the design drawings in the Village Shop. **Neighbourhood Plan Community Actions** Tree Planting - Parishioner Bill Grainger has created an app which allows him to assess the type and condition of individual trees fairly accurately and relatively quickly. Mr Grainger has assessed many trees in the parish and will use this work to help inform any replanting plans. Landowners will be informed of the outcome of the tree survey and the Parish Council will work with landowners if required to provide new trees under the free trees scheme. Cllrs wished to formally record their grateful thanks for all the work Mr Grainger has done in this regard. Rights of Way -Cllrs Newell & Hilton had undertaken their first walk around the parish footpaths and had prepared a comprehensive report for the footpaths officer. Highway and Pedestrian Safety - work is in the three year rolling LTP from 26/27 and Cllr Robson is awaiting speed monitoring training. **Emergency Plan** Cllr Croft had updated the Emergency Planning document and will share with Cllrs in due course. **c) Progress of B4RN Installation** The cabinet had been installed at the Village Hall and there is visible activity in the village. Customers have been approached to sign contracts. **d) County Councillor's Report** Antonia's comprehensive report appears at Appendix 1.
215	**6. Reports and Updates** **a) Evans Trust** There had been no recent meeting. **b) Humshaugh Children's Playing Field Trust** This role is vacant following the recent departure of Cllr Birleson. **c) Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd. (Village Shop)** Cllr Robson reported that alcohol had been a very successful addition to the shop's retail offer. Small bar area has been built where coffee can be prepared. An area where drinks can be consumed is planned. **d) Humshaugh Net Zero** Cllr Nohl reported the following: Humshaugh Community Solar Ltd 1MW solar farm at Lincoln Hill - It is hoped that Great British Energy (the UK's energy investment company) will be offering new funding schemes in the near future to support completion of our scheme. In the meantime a loan-based funding model is still being actively explored.

215cont	**d) Cont** Northern Powergrid Rural Stage 2 Community DSO Network Innovation Project - The aim of the trial, which is now closed to new participants, was to test integration of various domestic appliances and technologies to reduce reliance on centralised utilities. Data analysis is being undertaken and participant incentive payments, and payments to good causes are set to continue until October 2026. There will be an end of trial wrap-up event in the village Hall at 7 p.m. on October 29th. Electric Vehicle Car Club - HNZ have applied for the Village to be selected for one of 20 community led electric car clubs that are part of a programme which funds sustainable transport initiatives across Northumberland and Cumbria. The project provides electric vehicles in communities, along with vehicle charge points. Discussions are taking place about a possible charger location. Ash Trees - An HNZ member is currently surveying trees alongside roads and public footpaths. The survey is 70% complete and shows that whilst Ash is the commonest tree species, approximately 70% are either obviously diseased or dead as a result of Ash dieback, a highly destructive fungal disease.
	e) Humshaugh Village Hall Committee Cllr Croft reported that planning for the Centenary project at the village Hall continues.. The Fire Assembly Point outside the hall will need to be relocated and clearly signed. There was also a need to consider formalising the car parking arrangements outside the hall in order to keep fire exit routes clear. **f) Fix My Street Report** Parishioner Mr Woodward once again sent a comprehensive report. One item related to the poor condition of the pavement outside the recently completed Paddock development . It was considered to be the developer's responsibility and Cllr Newell agreed to contact the developer to ask when work to fix this would commence.
216	**7. Correspondence** Joint Town & Parish Autumn Conference 8th October County Hall Sport Tynedale - Application for funding support
217	**8. Public Forum** A member of the public asked if any progress had been made on tackling the weed problem on the Chesters Meadow South field. Cllr Newell had tried several times to contact the landowners Duchy Homes and had not been successful as many staff had left the company. He will persist.
218	**9. Items for Discussion at next Parish Council Meeting** As The Crown Inn is no longer trading, alternative arrangements need to be sought for the popular Senior Residents Christmas lunch. Some quotations and ideas were exchanged and this will be formally reviewed as an agenda item in November. The meeting closed at 8.40pm
219	**10. Date of next Parish Council Meeting** Thursday 12th November 2026, Humshaugh Parish Hall. 7.00pm.

APPENDIX 1

Humshaugh PC report 10.09.26

1. **40mph zone speed limit.** Waiting
2. **Someone to show residents how to access the data from speed signs.** I got a reply from Paul Armstrong saying that he has reached out to Swarco about the data collection feature on the speed sign. It is possible to add it on, they are going to send a quote through next week but obviously the Parish Council would need to pay for this.

   I wasn't aware of some speeding signs not having the software so I have asked for him to clarify which speeding signs you can get the data from and why the council asked for this data from certain PC if they didn't already have the software built in.
3. **How much money from S106 is there for Humshaugh.** At the last meeting you enquired about how much money there would be available to spend on the refurbishment of the village play ground. Heather, from the section 106 team got back to me saying: We have £7680.00 sport funds. We have interest from 2 Cricket clubs and we are awaiting to hear back from one of them.
4. **Library consultation.** On the 27th of July I attended the communities and place oversight and scrutiny meeting that I sit on. We discussed the proposed changes that will be put forward to cabinet in September. What I focused on asking about:

   - **Local needs assessment.** In the report it draws that this project will need to be reviewed by a local needs assessment which when asked about to see the results, they responded saying: that this has been on going since around 2020 and is still on going. Before any major decisions are made final, the **LNA** will be reviewed.
   - **Adapting and maintaining.** The team at NCC were very aware of how younger generations are becoming increasingly reliant on digital systems however they do recognise that we still have lots of people that rely on physical systems and that libraries offer a safe space for communities.

     Through the consultation people mentioned how the library should be open for longer on a Saturday and so the council have decided to have it open for 5 hours.
   - **The mobile library.** The council received multiple concerns regarding the suggested 6 week schedule and have now said that this will operate on a 4 weekly basis. The one mobile library will accommodate the whole of Northumberland. I did question this and asked about the ware and tear of one van for the whole county and what should happen in the case of the ML being out of service. Their response was that they would make sure the ML would have routinely services to make sure they caught anything asap. They also said they would need a contingency in place incase it was out of service for a longer period of time. I would like to make sure this is in place and acceptable for cabinet agrees to anything. Finally, NCC looked at areas where the ML was not being used at all and the length of time it would stay in an area. This will be to focus the ML in higher demand areas. I did ask which areas will be affected but at this moment in time, this and the routes are still being looked at.

Here you can view the agenda and the Libraries consultation report followed by the presentation under agenda item 5.

https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4430